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Col. 414, l. 5 put a , after *filled*; l. 11 read *maes*; l. 14 read *countrelyke*; l. 21 expunge the ; after *marchoc*; l. 33 put a , after *bwch*; l. 35 read *cæcepol*.

Col. 415, l. 3 put a , after *dourtour*; l. 13 put a ; after 'thrust.'

Col. 416, l. 7 read *baia*[e]; l. 9 read *haec*.

Col. 417, l. 11 read *wæren*; l. 12 read *quaelibet*.

Col. 418, l. 5 read *mürrisch*; l. 14 read *Curae*; l. 26 read *clæuel*; l. 36 read 'caesa'; l. 48 read *fluuii*; l. 49 read *Ruræ*.

Col. 419, l. 1 read *Houae plenae*; l. 20 read *Columbae*; l. 26 read *iuncturae*.

Col. 420, l. 3 read *baruina*; l. 39 read *heafodpanne*.

Col. 421, l. 4 read *mycteras*; l. 8 read *cassan*; l. 16 put a ; after *lenden*; l. 27 read *toliam*; l. 28 read *thoracem*.

Col. 422, l. 11 strike out *many*; l. 12 insert or *Bosworth-Toller's* (?) after *Hall's*.

OTTO B. SCHLUTTER.

Hartford, Conn.

DANTE'S FIGURE OF THE SEAL AND THE WAX.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—Dante is very fond of the figure of the seal and the wax, especially in the *Purgatorio* and the *Paradiso*. It is found in *Purg.* 10. 45; 18. 38-39; 33. 79, *Par.* 1. 41-42; 8. 127-128; 13. 73-75; *Conv.* 1. 8. 91-92; *Mon.* 2. 2. 73 ff. (the line-references in the prose works are to Moore's edition of the *Opere*). Less explicitly it occurs in *Inf.* 11. 49-50; *Purg.* 25. 95; *Par.* 2. 132; 7. 69. 24. 143; *Conv.* 2. 10. 37-38. The commentators as a rule throw no light upon it. Scartazzini (on *Purg.* 33. 79) quotes a reference to St. Jerome's preface to the Bible. Vernon, *Readings on the Inferno* (11. 49), refers to Rev. 14. 9-10. Moore, *Studies in Dante*, affords no help. Butler (on *Purg.* 33. 79) suggests the truth, but does not support

his assertion: "Dante is fond of the metaphor, borrowed from Aristotle, of the seal and the wax."

The Aristotelian passages, as students of Dante may be glad to know, are both found in the *De Anima*. The first is *De Anima* 2. 1 (412^b. 7). I quote from Wallace's translation: "We must no more ask whether the soul and the body are one than ask whether the wax and the figure impressed upon it are one, or generally inquire whether the material and that of which it is the material are one." The other is *De Anima* 2. 12 (424^a. 19): "The general character of sense in all its forms is to be found in seeing that sense-perception is that which is reception of the forms of things sensible without their matter, just in the same way as wax receives the impress of the seal without the iron or the gold of which it is composed, and takes the figure of the gold or bronze, but at the same time not as bronze or gold."

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BRIEF MENTION.

An Elementary English Composition, by Professors FRED NEWTON SCOTT, of the University of Michigan, and JOSEPH VILLIERS DENNEY, of the Ohio State University (Allen and Bacon, Boston), is somewhat unique in plan, a three-fold purpose being evident throughout the work: to present familiar ideas in such novel form as to pique curiosity, to stimulate thought, and to develop individuality; to keep in view the social aspects of school composition work, by regarding the school as the public to which the compositions may be supposed to be addressed; and to show the intimate connection of oral with written composition. As an aid to the stimulation of definite thought, several suggestive pictures are given. The authors have been remarkably successful in carrying out their plan, and have given their book the force of a strong and vital personality. They have put into it just what every progressive teacher would like to give to a class, but which few are able to give.